officials had cut off his hair and thereby provoked the religious sentiments of some prisoners. The prisoners had a grudge against the Jail Deputy Superintendent who maintained strict discipline inside the prison by detecting mobile phones and stopping the supply of drugs being used by the prisoners. Some of the Jail staff were also hand in glove with the prisoners and in connivance with the prisoners incited violence in the Jail as a result of which the prisoners went on a rampage, setting fire to the prison and pelting stones at the Jail officials. The prisoners burnt the factory store, medical store and all the wooden doors and windows of the jail and tried to blast the main gate by throwing an LPG cylinder. They also tried to escape through the perimeter wall by breaking an electricity pole and using it as a stair to scale the perimeter wall.

The District Administration deployed the Police outside the jail to control the situation. Subsequently, the police and the jail officials resorted to fire in the air, and brought the situation under control within two hours of the incident. The Deputy Superintendent was suspended and a Magisterial inquiry was ordered. The jail officials have also lodged an FIR under Section 436, 427 IPC and Section 10 of Damage to Public Property Act against some of the prisoners. The case is udner investigation of the police.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Although 'Prisons' is a State subject, the Union Government from time to time has been advising the State Governments and Union Territories to strengthen the security in jails and take all precautionary measures.

Steps to curb escaping of prisoners

162. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of prisoners escaped from one of the prisons in Chhattisgarh in the month of December, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether similar incidents of escaping of prisoners from jails have been reported from various States in the past few years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to ensure that such incidents may not occur in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIK RAO GAVIT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As reproted by the Government of Chhattisgarh 299 prisoners succeeded in absconding from the Dantewada District Jail in the State of Chhattisgarh on 16.12.2007. For the distribution of food the prisoners had been taken out of their barracks. Some prisoners started banging on their utensils to divert the attention of the security personnel towards the kitchen. Taking advantage of the situation Mr. Sujeet and ten other prisoners belonging to the Naxalite ideology came to the main gate and knocked and asked the gate keeper on duty, Shri Raj Kumar Souri to open the door on the pretest that they had to distribute medicines. When the gatekeeper opened the door, the prisoners immediately came into the main gate block, caught the gatekeeper, hit him on the head with a brick and took; him under their custody. Thereafter, the prisoners looted rifiles and cartridges. The prisoner, Sujeet entered into the jail compound with rifles and threatened the prisoners that

if they don't run away from there he would shoot all of them. He also kept on firing his rifle while threatening the prisoners. When the Chief Guard tried to blow his whistle Sujeet targeted him. However, before he could fire one of the undertrial prisoners pushed him and both the guard as well as the undertrial prisoner fell down. The bullet fired by Sujeet hit another undertrial prisoner Vishwanath who was standing behind the Chief Guard. Thereafter the hands of the Chief Guard were tied by the prisoners. Subsequently, while firing Sujeet informed all the prisoners that he had opened the door of the main gate and asked all of them to run away from the jail. While absconding from the jail the prisoners looted and took away with them three 303 rifles, one insas rifle three 410 muskut rifles, 239 cartridges, seven walkie talkies and one telephone set.

(c) As per the statistics compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau the jail breaks from 2004 to 2006 are as follows:-

Year	No. of Jail Breaks
2004	11
2005	8
2006	3

(d) Although 'Prisons' is a State subject, the Union Government from time to time has been advising the State Governments and Union Territories to strengthen the security in jails and take all precautionary measures.

Terrorists targeting courts in the country

163. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received threats from terrorists to target courts in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the terrorists posing as advocates trigger blasts in court premises;

(d) if so, whether Government has since taken any serious steps to speed up security measures in various courts of the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (e) There are no present inputs regarding any specific threat of terrorists to target courts in the country and about terrorists posing as advocates to trigger blasts in court premises. However, guidelines have been framed and communicated to all State Governments and Union Terriories for the security of High Courts and Districts/Subordinate Courts on 4.6.2007 with the request to urgently review the security arrangements of the High Courts and District/Subordinate Courts and adequately strengthen them to avoid and untoward incident. A continuous and close watch is being maintained by the various security agencies about any possible threats of terrorist activities. Any inputs that may be received in this respect are also shared with the State Governments on regular basis.